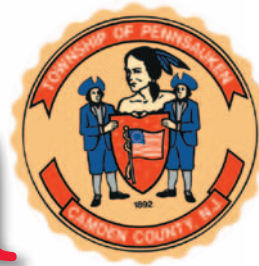


All Around Pennsauken



VOL. 22, NO. 1

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

January 2017

Township Committee Reorganization Public Meeting Held On January 4

The Pennsauken Township Committee will hold its annual reorganization meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4 at the Pennsauken Country Club on Haddonfield Rd.

The agenda includes the swearing in of a new mayor, deputy mayor, and committee members, as well as appointments to various positions, including the Township's new administrator. The new committee will then set the 2017 meeting dates for the local governing body.

All future public meetings, excluding the Reorganization Meeting, are held at the Pennsauken Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., at the corner of Route 130 and Merchantville Ave. at the times specified.

All Around Pennsauken posts information on these public meetings in each issue. Meeting dates can also be found at the Township web site, twp.pennsauken.nj.us. Changes to the meeting schedule will be advertised in the Courier-Post and Retrospect newspapers and will be posted online via the Township's web site, Facebook page and Twitter feed.

School Board Holds Reorganization Meeting On January 5

The Pennsauken Township Board of Education will be holding its reorganization meeting on Thursday, Jan. 5, 7:00 p.m. in Room 327 of Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd., Pennsauken.

continued on page 23

Pricing Changes To Occur For Residents Enrolled In Energy Aggregation Program

Residents Continue To Pay Less Than Those On PSE&G's Default Service

Information Provided By T&M Associates And Talen Energy

Talen Energy is informing customers currently enrolled in the Pennsauken Township Community Aggregation Program about price changes for the supply portion of your electricity bill. Although the contracted price is not intended to fluctuate, there are variables and regulatory changes outside of our control.

One change is related to the New Jersey Sales and Use Tax. Effective January 1, 2017, the supply price for energy aggregation participants will decrease from the current price of \$0.10865/kWh. Customers' January bill will reflect a prorated price

based on your bill cycle. The February bill will completely reflect the new, lower tax rate with a price of \$0.10852/kWh.

The other change starts in March and will increase customers' supply price to \$0.11161/kWh to reflect an increase in regulated transmission rates. This increase affects all residents served by PSE&G, including those on PSE&G's default supply service. Residents enrolled in the Township's Community Aggregation Program will continue to save money with a competitive price for electricity supply compared to PSE&G's average price to compare of \$0.11839/kWh as of December 15, 2016.

New Jersey Government Energy Aggregation

PSE&G will continue to deliver your electricity and provide customer services such as meter reading and billing. They are also the ones you call if there is an outage.

If you have any questions, please visit www.talenenergy.com/residential/Penn

continued on page 29

Township Seeks Input On Pennsauken's 125th Anniversary

Pennsauken Township is just a little over a month away from a very big holiday.

On February 18, 2017, our town will turn 125 years old. The Township, in conjunction with the Pennsauken Events Committee, is looking to plan a variety of

events this year to mark this special occasion. And the help of residents and businesses is needed to make it happen.

The Township wants to hear about your ideas on how you think we should celebrate the 125th anniversary of Pennsauken. It's everyone's celebration. In order to do this properly, it needs to be a collaborative effort from every part of the Pennsauken community.

So if you think we should throw a birthday party with a really big cake, let us know. If you think we should put together a time capsule that won't be opened until Pennsauken's 150th anniversary, tell us. If we should invite back some of Pennsauken's finest, who've gone on to win Super Bowls, help land a space rover on

Mars, or become a prominent musician, shoot us a line. The only bad idea is the one not shared.

- Some examples already shared are:
- Highlighting Pennsauken's historical progress through a public exhibit
 - A homecoming event, inviting resident from years' past to return and engage in a community celebration
 - Having Pennsauken High School's Double Dozen choir and band perform musical numbers from different decades at a special concert
 - Carnivals, dance parties, and more

There are three ways to share your ideas:

continued on page 23

125
Established February 18, 1892

Pennsauken is seeking input from residents and businesses for ideas on how to celebrate the Township's 125th anniversary.

Look! inside

Flavorfest Held At Double Nickel
[See Page 5](#)

Tips On Picking A Contractor
[See Page 20](#)

Date Announced For Art Show And Sale
[See Page 31](#)

Plus!

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JANUARY CALENDAR

Model Train Display

Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club, home of the area's largest operating O gauge model railroad display, will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 7 and 8, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14 and 15, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Located in the basement of Grace Episcopal Church, 7 East Maple Ave., Merchantville, the display features a two-rail, O gauge model railroad, including 4,000 linear feet of track and a reproduction of Philadelphia's

30th Street Station. All open houses are free to attend. Free parking is also available. For more details, visit "Cherry Valley Model Railroad" on Facebook.

AARP Meeting

Pennsauken AARP Chapter 2861 will hold its next meeting on Monday, Jan. 9, at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave. Fellowship time is at 12:30 p.m.; meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. Entertainment by Dennis Cover Disc Guitar will follow.

Munch And A Movie

The Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library will be holding its monthly "Munch and a Movie" event on Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 12:30-3:00 p.m. In the Library's Community Room, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy a FREE movie and snack, courtesy of the Friends. For this month's movie selection please call the Library at (856) 665-5959.

Town Watch

Pennsauken's Town Watch hosts its first meeting of 2017 on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Pennsauken Police Department, Second Floor. Come learn how to make our community safer. For more information, call (856) 488-0080 ext 2417.

CERT Training Class

The Camden County Community Emergency Response Team will be conducting a training class from Friday, Jan. 13 through Sunday, Jan. 15. Learn valu-

able skills that will enable you to assist families and friends in the event of an emergency. The class will be held at the Mt. Ephraim EOC, located at 508 Lambert Ave., Mt. Ephraim, N.J. Friday night's class starts at 7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday's classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and run until 4:00 p.m. Anyone interested in taking the class is asked to register no later than Monday, Jan. 9 at cert@publicsafetycc.com. Please make sure to provide your name, age, and contact information.

Barks And Brews Fundraiser

The Double Nickel Brewing Company, 1585 Rt. 73, is hosting the "Barks and Brews" fundraiser on Thursday, Jan. 26 at 5:00 p.m. The event includes great food; two pints or two flights; live music from "The Bad Bees;" tastings of a chili cook-off; as well as a chance to bid on a variety of raffles. Pre-purchased tickets are \$30 online and \$35 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Paw It 4ward Foundation, an organization that assist local animal rescues with funds to offset the exorbitant medical bills they incur as they save lives. The "snow date" is Thursday, Feb. 2. For more information, visit <http://pi4w.com>.

Annual Irish Nite Fundraiser Held On March 4



Ballinà will be the musical entertainment at Mary Queen of All Saints' annual Irish Nite, held on Saturday, Mar. 4 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish is hosting its annual Irish Nite fundraiser on Saturday, March 4 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Msgr. Kavanagh Hall, 48th St. and Camden Ave., Pennsauken. The event, which is BYOB, features an evening of great food and fun. Irish music provided by Ballinà; beer and set-ups are provided.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Tables of 10 or more can be reserved. Proceeds go directly to support the parish's annual expenses.

For more information, or to order tickets, call (856) 662-2721.

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EDITOR'S**DESK**

By Frank Sinatra,
AAP Editor

Santa came and went in a cookie-fueled, toy-laden sojourn 'round the globe; the giant ball dropped at Times Square at the stroke of midnight January 1, 2017; and we don't have to listen to Jenny McCarthy blather on for at least another 360 or so days. We are now free to take a deep breath and get ready to pick up the soon-to-be broken pieces of our New Year's resolutions. They. Just. Don't. Last.

Why do we torture ourselves so? It's a lot of pressure, taking a solemn oath from this day forward to eat better, wake up earlier, be kinder, remember to cover our mouths when we cough, yadda, yadda, yadda. It's like cramming for a

final exam by binge reading the text book the day before. Which, I've done. I got an A, but I don't recommend it. At all. Seriously, don't do it.

Anyway, back to resolutions. Do we, as human beings, truly improve upon ourselves by going cold turkey at 12:01 a.m. on January 1? Just because you're watching Fergie announce pop artists you've never heard of in a previously-recorded performance from the West Coast doesn't mean you're going to transform into a totally different person after you dump the rest of the New Year's Eve champagne from the bottle that you couldn't possibly finish.

Now I'm not saying that making life improvements isn't important. It is. And there are some people out there that actually do make New Year's resolutions that truly stick – it's like the “sometimes

Y” rule for vowels. It does happen. Occasionally.

I am saying that while the intention is important, the approach of the New Year's resolution is what I find lacking. After January 1, 2017, our brains recognize that the holiday season that the general population observes is officially over. We clean up the mess, take down the tree... eventually... and life gets back to normal. But getting back to normal isn't change. Far from it.

I think that when it comes to self improvement, most of us truly benefit from

a “slow and steady” approach to win the race. If you want to take up running, you don't immediately sign up to run a marathon the next day. You walk. A lot. Then you jog more than you walk. And all of a sudden, you're actually running. You might even be ready to take on bigger things that involve finish lines and medals.

We're not perfect people. We make mistakes. Sometimes we're really good at that part. You need to factor that in. Just remember to pick yourself up and dust yourself off when it happens.

So why not just put one foot in front of the other? Ease into it, but keep moving forward. Soon you'll be walking out the door. Hey, it worked for the Winter Wizard.

On behalf of the entire staff of All Around Pennsauken, from our publisher, our graphic designer, and all of our columnists and volunteer contributors, I wish you and yours a very prosperous start to 2017. May all of your last second New Year's resolutions stay back in the wastelands of 2016 where they belong.



May the New Year bring us all greater heights of success and prosperity. Have a Happy New Year!

MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING ALL OUR NEIGHBORS HAPPINESS, PEACE, AND PROSPERITY



Cherry Hill – Kingston

No expenses spared to the upgrading and maintenance of this home. Some of those upgrades include: roof, updated kitchen and bathrooms, and a newer heating and air conditioning system. The home features great entertaining options with a wet bar in the back room. The pool is custom made that has been upgraded with a new filter and pump motor, new lighting, and the plaster, tile and stonework have all been redone. The attic has great potential for more rooms to be added on. \$279,000



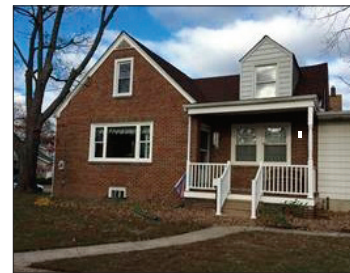
Atco – Large Corner Lot!

This 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Cape Cod home sits on a large corner lot with a huge back yard. The L/R has a wall with barn board and mirrors, and a stone fireplace. The large play room would make a nice recreation room or media room. The master bedroom is on the main floor and features a walk in closet. There are two bedrooms and a full bath on the second floor. The full basement has a finished family room area, a laundry area. There is plenty of room to entertain. Don't miss this beauty! \$219,900



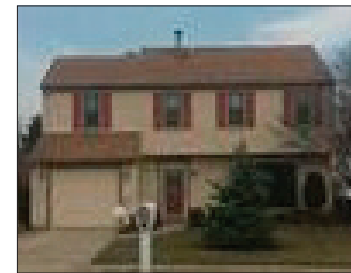
Franklinville – New Construction

3 BR 2 full bath home with a full poured concrete basement and a 1 car attached garage. House sits on almost 3 acres of ground. Quality construction including solid wood cabinets and granite counter-tops. High efficiency gas heat and central air. Great schools. Ten year home owner warranty. Oversized building lot. \$213,000



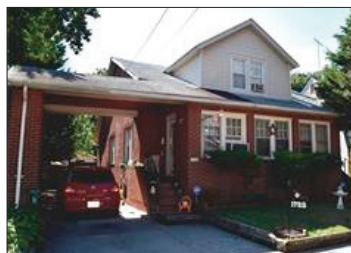
Pennsauken – 5 Bedrooms!

This is an amazing property! With 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths there's tons of room for all. Original oak hardwood floors with a super-sized living room and bedrooms throughout. Fireplace in living room, kitchen with nook bar and a full finished basement. Move in ready property. \$194,900



Pennsauken – Chadwyck

Awesome FOUR bed colonial located on a quiet cul-de-sac in Chadwyck. Home features formal L/R, formal D/R, updated kitchen, family room with sliders leading to patio overlooking huge fenced in yard with shed. All rooms are good sized and have ample closet space. \$184,900



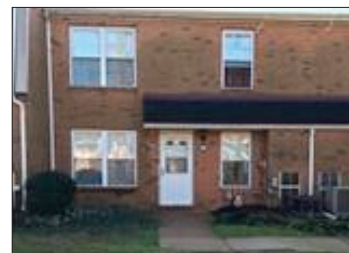
Pennsauken – Great Investment Opportunity

This is the perfect way to own a home and have rental income to help pay the mortgage. Unit #1 has 3 bedrooms and a very nice size family room with skylights upstairs. There is an enclosed porch so you can enjoy it throughout the year. The porch has beautiful French doors that lead into the living room. In the backyard there is a detached garage and it is also fenced in. The second unit is a nice size. It has one bedroom, living room, kitchen and bathroom. Schedule your appointment to see it today. You don't want to miss out on this one! \$159,900



Pennsauken

Spacious Four bedroom Colonial recently painted in neutral colors with one bedroom on 1st floor. Features hard wood floors in 32 x 11 combination Living Room and Dining Area. There is a new roof & hot water heater. The thermal windows throughout are only 2 years old. And Gas Heat! Nicely landscaped fenced in yard. There is a heated sun room off the kitchen where you could expand the kitchen or use as a den. \$135,000



Palmyra – Good Value

Town home with 2 bedrooms and 1 1/2 baths. Best priced townhouse in Palmyra Harbour for condition and updates. Newer bathroom, replacement windows and new carpets in all but one bedroom. \$95,000



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Camden County Launches Smart911 Technology

The Freeholder Board has launched Smart911 in Camden County to save critical time in emergency situations and encourages county residents to register with the program. Smart911 is a free nationwide service that allows users to create a Smart911 Safety Profile, which provides vital information to emergency dispatchers and first responders during an emergency. Camden County is the first in the state to introduce the technology.

"Our first responders need as much intelligence as possible to ensure positive outcomes and this program is a key to gathering that strategic analysis to provide help," said Freeholder Jonathan Young, liaison to the Camden County Department of Public Safety. "By giving the department of public safety your home and work address, or even photos, you can let first responders know exactly

where to go and who they are looking for. When every second counts, Smart911 can and will save lives."

Smart911 allows individuals to create a safety profile at www.camdencounty.com for their whole household that can include any additional information they want the county communication center and first responders to have in an emergency situation. When an individual makes a 9-1-1 call, their Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the dispatcher, allowing them to send the most appropriate response to the exact location with the right information.

With Smart911, residents can link both home and work addresses to mobile phones, which can be passed on to police and fire personnel in the field for more a detailed, rapid response. Additional information including current medications,

preexisting medical conditions, vehicle details in the event of an accident, emergency contacts and much more can all be included in a Safety Profile.

"Residents who link their safety profiles to their cell phones will provide first responders with the vital information they need," Young said. "Even if you are in an area with a weak cell signal or a location where the call drops, you will have the added assistance of having your safety profile speak for you."

All information is completely optional and only displayed when the linked phone dials 9-1-1 and then is only available for a certain window of time. The caller has the ability to choose what details they would like to include.

Smart911 is currently available nationwide in more than 1,500 counties and municipalities across the country,

and has been credited with positively impacting emergency outcomes including a missing child in which the girl's photo and physical description were immediately available to first responders, as well as a heart attack victim where an address and medical notes allowed help to be dispatched to his location quickly.

Camden County residents are encouraged to create their Safety Profile with Smart911 to have their information available to dispatchers and to receive emergency notifications. Smart911 is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses, and only made available to the 9-1-1 system in the event of an emergency call.

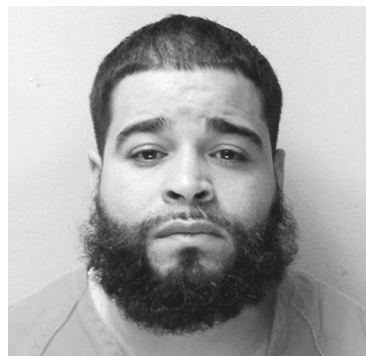
Pennsauken Police Confiscate Heroin, Make Arrest During Raid

On November 16, 2016, the Pennsauken Township Police Department and the Camden County Sheriff's Department Entry Team executed a search warrant on the 5500 block of Wayne Av-

enue. Confiscated from the raid was over 5 ½ pounds of heroin with a street value of over \$250,000. Arrested was a Dennis Burdie, 37 years old, of Wayne Avenue, Pennsauken.

Burdie was charged with various drug offenses and was remanded to the

Camden County Jail. The search warrant was the result of a long term joint investigation with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Suburban Narcotics Unit, the Maple Shade Police Department and the Merchantville Police Department.



Dennis Burdie of Pennsauken was arrested and charged with various drug offenses.

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Pennsauken Police Detectives Honored



On December 8, 2016, Detectives Brian Polaski and Aerika Long of the Pennsauken Township Police Department received awards from the Camden County Detective's Association for outstanding police work. The awards were presented during the Camden County Detective's Association's annual awards ceremony.

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Big Brothers Big Sisters Hold Flavorfest At Double Nickel Brewing Company



Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region (BBBS Independence) is excited to announce its newest South Jersey fundraising event, FlavorFest 2017, which will be held at Double Nickel Brewing Company, 1585 Rt. 73, Pennsauken on Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 6:30–9:30 p.m.

FlavorFest 2017 will be a foodie extravaganza featuring some of the best restaurants and caterers in South Jersey, such as Seasons 52 and Ms. Dawn's Catering. The event will include a robust food sampling; Double Nickel craft beers (one beer token included with ticket); games; silent auction; photo booth; and 50/50 raffle. Eat, drink and be merry,

while helping to raise money to provide caring and compassionate mentors for youth in the South Jersey community.

FlavorFest attendees can look forward to a silent auction with exciting items up for bids, including a family fun pack for five at International Sports Center; a thrilling twin engine plane ride out of Flying W Airport; a basket of goodies from Carlo's Bakery; and much more.

"FlavorFest 2017 is a fun way to bring our mission to the communities we serve," says Marcus Allen, CEO, BBBS Independence. "We are very fortunate to have some of South Jersey's best restaurants and caterers associated with our cause. This event will help raise the critical funds necessary to provide positive role models for our local youth, help build their futures, and strengthen our communities."

Ticket prices range from \$50 to \$100. VIP ticket holders are invited to come at 5:30 p.m. for a private tour of the brewery; general admission starts at 6:30 p.m. Donations and sponsorships are also accepted. Support for FlavorFest 2017 will allow BBBS Independence to serve children facing adversity in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region is a donor-supported organization that enriches, encourages and empowers children to reach their highest potential through safe, one-to-one mentoring relationships. Volunteering as a Big Brother or Big Sister is about mak-

ing a measurable difference in a child's life by sharing new perspectives and experiences. Serving Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties in Pa and Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties in N.J., nearly 4,000

children annually are more successful socially and academically because of the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region.

For more information, visit IndependenceBigs.org.



Tip of the Month

"Ghosting" is when a deceased individual's personal information is stolen to commit fraudulent acts. To protect your loved ones who have passed away, be sure to contact all credit reporting agencies, credit issuers, collection agencies, financial institutions, etc. that need to know of the death and follow the required procedures for each one. Also, obtain several copies of the official death certificate when it comes available.

These simple steps can keep your home and family safe!

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Abandoned/ Vacant Property Initiative Year In Review

By Tracey Howarth

At the beginning of this initiative, it was agreed that the Township needed to make progress quickly, so we set a few reasonably achievable goals: get a good count of how many properties we had to deal with; map them out for a visual of where the hardest hit areas are; ensure that we had all the necessary resources in place, such as the most up-to-date ordinances to move forward; and identify and hold accountable the banks and property maintenance companies for as many of the vacant properties as we could. Once those goals were achieved,

our mission was to put together a comprehensive program that would help to streamline the vacant and abandoned property processes with the ultimate goal being to sell them, rehab them, and occupy them.

So let's see how we did...

We identified 621 properties in Pennsauken as vacant; the Township then mapped out each of the properties, which helped us to understand that it's a problem that really affects each section of town. We also researched multiple townships that are having success getting their properties occupied. Once this re-

search was done, we found that in fact there were a few programs that we needed to adopt in order to drive the accountability to the appropriate parties.

In addition, by partnering with Township inspectors and our residents, we have been able to identify our toughest properties and the property maintenance companies that need our undivided attention.

Now that 2016 is in the books, let's see how we did...

Today, we have 540 vacant properties. Last year, 211 vacant properties were sold. Three hundred and eight vacant properties are registered with a known bank and property maintenance company. The Township has generated over \$280,000 in registration fees since the beginning of 2016. We have also updated and added more accountability to our legal options.

The Township has partnered with both the county and some of our internal software companies to begin streamlining this entire process, simplifying it from start to finish. We've capitalized and continue to strengthen our relationships with organizations like St Joseph Carpenter's Society to help us get these properties occupied faster.

We also have 68 properties designated as abandoned, opening the door for the Township to take the next legal steps.

So where did we fall short?

There still are 540 vacant properties in town. Although foreclosures are slowing down, they have not completely stopped. Out of these properties, only 308 are registered. The Township still has research to do here. Leveraging our partnership with the county, Pennsauken's municipal administration has access to a software program called Community Champions. This software links directly to the banks and property management companies to identify the responsible parties. Not only will this help us get our remaining prop-

erties registered and maintained, it will also allow us to focus on moving these properties to the next step in their journey to occupancy.

The Township also continues to research programs that will help our residents stay in their houses if they are facing foreclosure. There's no silver bullet here. Finding programs that will accommodate the different levels of income and needs of our residents isn't easy, but we continue to do the research.

So what's next?

The Township is currently in the process of preparing our case to have the 68 abandoned properties mentioned earlier entered into receivership or a special tax sale. What direction we take will depend on the property. We are also compiling our second list of abandoned properties to be designated by the beginning of the year.

We are preparing to roll out the Community Champions software. Pennsauken's government has amended our ordinances to accommodate the needs of the program; and we've sent the Community Champions team all the necessary information about our current program. Once the tech comes out and sets up the program, we're off and running!

The Township set the goal to have a comprehensive streamlined process in place for the total program by the end of the year. We're almost there. Elected officials and municipal staff have put the shell together for a program that will help us move through the process of getting these properties occupied, covering everything from the registration of a property straight through to a safe transition to our newest residents. The program is completed with a seminar for the new home owners on how to manage their finances as a home and property owner. As many know, owning your own home and property is much different

than renting a property. These seminars will help people understand how to budget for those "fun" unexpected expenses that occur at the worst times.

This initiative did not start last May. Many of the departments in the Township were actively working to address this issue much earlier than that. Without all the due diligence that was done by our Building Department, Clerk's Office, Tax Office, Housing Agency, Public Works, the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission, and the Township administration, this initiative would not be this far along, nor would we have been able to get our first list of abandoned properties to this point.

A lot of work has been done by a lot of people and many of our goals have been met. But as like anything else, there is much work still to be done. Rest assured that we all continue to work to alleviate this problem and restore all of our properties and neighborhoods.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to reach out and call me at (856) 665-1000 x 145.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Fundraiser For Pennsauken Native Held On January 11

Bryson's Irish Pub, located at 3402 Cove Rd., is holding a fundraiser on Wednesday, Jan. 11 for Pennsauken native Desiree Fantini, who is currently battling breast cancer.



Fantini

Fantini was diagnosed with breast cancer in May of last year and has already completed six rounds of chemotherapy, as well as a double mastectomy. Funds raised during this event will go to help support Desiree and her two young children as she fights this disease.

The fundraiser is held at Bryson's Pub from 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Fifty percent of the proceeds from bar sales during this time is being graciously donated by Paul Bryson. The event also features food, a 50/50, silent auction, and more.

Those wishing to provide food donations for the event are asked to contact Tracy at (856) 332-5000. Anyone who would like to donate a basket for the fundraiser is asked to call Christina at (856) 426-1633. Those wishing to make a financial donation are asked to e-mail emaya77@gmail.com. The rain date for Desiree's fundraiser is Wednesday, Jan. 18.

For more information, visit "Bryson's Pub" on Facebook.



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WAGSWORLD Bob's Gone "Missing" After A Poor Bout Of Fishing

By "Trout Man" Tommy,
filling in for Bob Wagner

My apologies to those of you who came here to read Bob's column. If you are regular readers, I was introduced to you last month, when Bob talked of going on his bucket list trip in South Florida. I am "Trout Man" Tommy, and I accompanied Bob and his bride, Suzie, to Florida, along with my lovely wife, Carmella. It was a delightful and productive trip and great fun for all... up to the point where we "lost" Bob.

I do not write columns on a regular basis, but felt it was the least I could do, under the circumstances. Also, I feel a tiny bit responsible for Bob's absence here, as it was my offhand remark about "jumping in the lake" that may have lead to Bob missing the monthly deadline. But I digress.

All four of us ventured to South Florida to catch a peacock bass for the guys, some rays of sunshine for the girls. For the record, we were wildly successful, except for Bob, who caught a few tiny fish. He was okay the first day, his usual happy, talkative self. But at the end of the second day, when he still hadn't caught a respectable fish on his bucket list, he became a tad "peckish." By day three, with only hours remaining, and finding himself unable to catch a photographable specimen, his misery overflowed. As we slowed the boat to pass under a small bridge, Bob leapt up, swung himself out, and ran down the path.



AAP Columnist Bob Wagner, seen here with his friend, "Trout Man" Tommy, has "gone missing" after an unsuccessful fishing trip in Florida.

He was hollering unintelligible epithets about his reputation, the cost of bucket list trips, and other silliness.

Carmella, Suzie, and I searched for a while. It seemed like a long time, but actually was a few minutes. Bob's bride informed us that she had seen this all coming for some time and we shouldn't let this spoil our trip. We waited a few more minutes, and then went back to the hotel for dinner.

The sheriff and park police assured us they would find Bob soon. Or, if not, they would have the Chamber of Commerce send us home with a complimentary

fruit basket.

I stayed busy for days back home, monitoring the Florida missing persons web site, looking for postings about fat, bearded columnists, and doctoring photos. I managed to Photoshop a few pictures to have it appear that Bob had really caught some fish. I thought that by posting a few photos on the internet, Bob would see them, and feel as if he could return home, having crossed off those bucket list fish.

If you are travelling through Florida this winter, keep an eye out for a large,



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police/anonymous-tip-form](http://www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/police/anonymous-tip-form).

IF IT'S AN EMERGENCY,
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bearded fellow in shorts and stained t-shirt, lurking behind bushes, or sleeping under palm trees. Don't try to approach him. And please, don't feed him. Under no circumstances should you mention fish, buckets, lists, or, the bride. Just call local authorities. They are trained professionals.

Well, I have to go now. Suzie and Carmella have finished another batch of

cookies which need sampling. Bob's friend Jones is taking me down to the garage to pick through some of Bob's rods and reels and specialty flies. I will also help Jones keep the V.W. running with a road test. He also offered me a half interest in an old Army jeep.

Golly, I hope Bob "shows up." Just not too soon. Happy New Year!

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Angel Tree Helps Record Number Of Families During Holidays

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Thanks to the generosity of the local community, Pennsauken's Angel Tree program was one of the most successful it's ever been. Last month, over 50 families in need were helped during the holidays.

"Each and every year, the Pennsauken community really steps up for the Angel Tree program," says Elwood "Duke" Martz, director of Pennsauken's Parks and Recreation department. "A lot of residents, businesses, and organizations are extremely generous with a variety of donations. And this year was no different. Because of their amazing support, chil-

dren who normally would go without had presents under their Christmas trees."

The Angel Tree was started over 20 years ago by then administrator Ken Carruth and Bernie Kofoet, who served the Township for many years as the superintendent of Pennsauken's Public Works Department. The two placed a Christmas Tree at the Penn Queen Diner, allowing both patrons and members of the community an opportunity to help their neighbors in need during the holidays. The success of that endeavor turned into today's Angel Tree program.

Several individuals, groups, and busi-

nesses provided financial donations to help the Angel Tree program purchase toys for needy families, including the Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce (P.M.A.C.), the employees who work at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building, the Men and Women's Auxiliary of Gross-Hollinshe VFW Post 1270, Diane Johnson, and the staff at Baldwin Elementary School. In addition, Physician and Tactical Healthcare Services, LLC (P.A.T.H.S.) made a very generous donation that enabled the program to help even more families this holiday season.

Others groups donated new, unwrapped toys to the Angel Tree program. The giving kicked off with a toy donation drive, held by members of

P.M.A.C. at Pinsetter Bar and Bowl and extended throughout the month of December. Thanks also go to Saint Stephen's Roman Catholic Church, Bombardier Transportation, T&M Associates, the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission, as well as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (S.J.A.C.), all of whom helped create a record toy collection for the Angel Tree program this year. In addition, Michael Bruce, owner of Michael Bruce Florist in Pennsauken, collected unwrapped toys all year round from family and friends, distributing them to the Angel Tree program and several other worthy causes.

"The Angel Tree program means a lot to this community. Our neighbors really know how to come together in times



Pennsauken residents, local organizations, and area businesses, like Michael Bruce Florist, donated toys to help over 50 families during the holidays through the Angel Tree program.

of need," says John Kneib, mayor of Pennsauken Township for 2016. "It's so wonderful that residents, as well as local businesses and organizations, come together to help those less fortunate. We all hope that this spirit of giving back and generosity continues in this New Year and for many more to come."



PMAC To Showcase New Web Site At January 11 Meeting

The Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce (P.M.A.C.) will be unveiling its new web site at its first networking luncheon of the year, held on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

The meeting's guest speaker will be fellow P.M.A.C. member Joseph Welusz, managing partner and co-founder of Acularis Marketing Solutions, southern New Jersey's only full-service marketing, advertising and public relations agency.

Joseph has been assisting P.M.A.C. with his marketing experience and developed the organization's new web site. Welusz will provide attendees with an overview of the site and how members and visitors can navigate through it.

Sign-in begins at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 11, with the meeting starting at 12 noon. Admission is \$20 per person. Attendees are asked to R.S.V.P. to Nancy Ellis at (856) 438-0833 or pmac1team@gmail.com by Monday, Jan. 9.

PMAC Makes Donation To Angel Tree

A special thank you to all those who attended our Angel Tree Kick-Off event last month at Pinsetter Bar and Bowl. Thanks to your generous donations, as well as your support of our Christmas in July happy hour, P.M.A.C. was able to make a \$1,000 donation to Pennsauken's Angel Tree program and provide a large amount of new, unwrapped toys to help families in need during the holidays.

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GRAYMATTERS A Small Gesture Of Peace And Love To Those Who Need It Most

By Judith Kristen,
AAP Columnist

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May your 2017 be filled with joy, peace, love, and happiness.

Last month, most of us ran around like maniacs trying to juggle jobs, kids, families, work, cooking, cleaning, and on top of all that, holiday shopping! It gets nuts after a while.

The older I get, the more I find the commercialism of it all a bit much and a good long way from what the spirit of Christmas was genuinely meant to be. Remember the commercials where kids asked Santa online to buy Mom or Dad a new car? How about the ads where Christmas is really spelled d-i-a-m-o-n-d-s?

Seriously? A new \$45,000 car? A little \$5,000 bauble?

On Dec. 8, I decided to be good for goodness' sake. I packed up my car with

lunch bags filled with turkey sandwiches, chocolate chip cookies, and candy canes, and drove to reach the unreachable. A lot of people make it to a shelter or soup kitchen. Others cannot. They were the ones I was hoping to find.

And I found more than I ever expected. I trekked through Camden and Philadelphia. I was surrounded by love, and hugs, gratitude, smiles, and laughter in what to some would have looked like some pretty seedy conditions.

I explained that I was not giving just from myself; it was a way to celebrate my son, Jon, who had passed away in 2015. Jonny was a great believer in giving back and he did something wonderfully generous like this every year. I also said that Dec. 8 was the very day that John Lennon had died 36 years earlier; it was also a way of celebrating his message of peace, love, and kindness.

I also told them the honest truth that for a 16-day period in my life, I too was homeless.

I witnessed a homeless man appreciating his "spot" on Federal St., sweeping it clean every morning and night. "You made them cookies?" he asked me. I said, "I sure did!" His smile was worth a million bucks!

Then were four fellas hanging out near Washington Ave. in Philadelphia. As I handed them their lunch bags, one of them gave me a kind, appreciative hug. And, as I walked away, four voices sang out the entire chorus of "We Wish you a Merry Christmas."

A car wash owner who watched me hand out a few lunches ran over to me and offered me a free car wash. He told me to sit in the car and just drive through inside it, so it could be a gift back to me, my Jon, and Mr. Lennon. And so I did.

Then, there were five men in the cold, sharing blankets by Market St. in Camden. I witnessed one of them abusing drugs right then and there. It broke my heart. He looked no more than 18 years old. I drove to the end of the street and placed their lunch bags on the ground. I called out to them that their lunch had arrived and that I hope they enjoyed it.

Not 10 minutes later, I drove up near the Adventure Aquarium and saw another young fellow in his 20's, skinny, and worn out by life. He was sitting in the cold next to his dog, Boo, a big, happy-faced black and tan mutt. I handed the young man two lunches: one for him, and one for his best friend. As I got back in my car, I saw him, in spite of how hungry he must have been, feed his dog first.

I did not get a \$45,000 car for Christmas; nor am I sporting a snazzy \$5,000

three-carat diamond. But, as schmaltzy as this many sound, Christmas came 17 days early for me; and it was the most beautiful holiday I ever had.

May that joyous and loving spirit find you and stay with you all throughout this brand New Year.

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~Judy

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SENIORCORNER Tips For Seniors To Prepare For Winter Weather

By Sonny DiSabato, Senior Citizen Coordinator
Hello fellow seniors.

Winter is officially here; and we've already had some teases of the cold, snowy weather that comes with it. If you haven't already, there are some simple steps you can take to be ready for when the more intense winter weather arrives:

- Check your heater to make sure that it's running well; also, buy inexpensive heater filters and replace them each month
- Have a three-day supply of non-perishable food for each person in the house

- In case of a power outage, have candles, matches, flashlights, and fresh batteries handy
- Have salt and fertilizer to use on steps and walkways to melt icy patches
- Make sure that your cell phone is charged at 100 percent prior to any forecast of winter weather; also, be sure to stay in touch with family and friends so that they know you're okay

Snow Removal Program For Seniors
The Camden County Freeholder

Board offers assistance to senior citizens and disabled residents who are unable to remove significant amounts of snow accumulation from their properties.

The Snow Removal Program is available to help seniors and disabled individuals get out of their homes for necessities such as prescriptions or medical appointments. The program uses Camden County Correctional Facility inmates who are carefully screened, non-violent offenders who are guarded at all times on the job site by corrections officers. The Senior Snow

Removal Program is an extension of the facility's Road Crew Program.

The Snow Removal Program will go into effect only AFTER four inches of snow have fallen on the ground in our area. Calls for snow removal will not be taken until after it has stopped snowing. At that time, at-risk elderly and disabled residents can contact the Camden County Division of Emergency Management at (856) 783-4808 ext. 5060. Work crews will be dispatched only after it has stopped snowing. The work crews

will remove snow only during daylight hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Crews will respond to calls in the order they are received and will service as many residents as possible each day. There are no guaranteed times when the crews will arrive at a residence. Senior and disabled residents must call after each substantial snowfall to request this service.

Wishing you and yours a happy start to 2017. Please say a prayer for our men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Help Is Needed From Volunteers To Preserve Pennsauken's History

As we celebrate a historic event this year, the 125th anniversary of Pennsauken, the Pennsauken Historical Society would like to ask you to consider volunteering some of your time to help preserve a piece of Pennsauken's history.

The Pennsauken Historical Society, made up entirely of volunteers, manages and operates the oldest house in Pennsauken, the 306-year-old, historic Burrough-Dover House, located at 9201 Burrough-Dover Lane. The Burrough-Dover House was built by Samuel Bur-

rough in 1710. Samuel's descendants occupied the house consecutively for over 100 years. The home was purchased in 1834 by Dr. William Dover, and like Samuel Burrough, his descendants occupied the house consecutively for over 100 years. The Pennsauken Historical Society was founded in 1965 to help protect the house and oversee some much needed repairs. The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

As of now, the Pennsauken Historical

Society has a small, but dedicated group of volunteers who oversee the both the organization itself and the Burrough-Dover House. They are currently in the process of merging with the other local group that takes care of the Pennsauken Township's other historic building, the Griffith Morgan House, located at 243 Griffith Morgan Lane.

To help ensure that both these houses keep their doors open for subsequent generations, it is important that this group expands their volunteer base.

Whether you'd like to be a tour guide, work on planning events, help with maintenance, or volunteer in another capacity entirely, they can use your help.

The Burrough-Dover House is a historical rarity, one that has stood as a witness to the founding of Pennsauken Township, NJ (1892); the founding of Camden County, NJ (1844); and the founding of the United States of America (1776). As our community comes together to celebrate the anniversary of our wonderful Township, the Penn-

sauken Historical Society asks that you please consider joining them in preserving Pennsauken's history. For more information on the Pennsauken Historical Society, please visit www.facebook.com/PennsaukenHistoricalSociety. For more information on volunteering, e-mail to pennsaukenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or contact Michelle Holmes as (856) 298-6278. Please be sure to leave your name and telephone number where you can be reached.

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Dance Students Raising Funds For Once-In-A-Lifetime Experience

Students at Merchantville's Ronnie McLaughlin Dance Studio are taking advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The studio's ensemble dancers will be performing on the Carnival Cruise Line in August 2017, putting on a show that will entertain the cruise guests,

while also creating lifelong memories for the dancers and their families.

To facilitate the cost of setting sail with Carnival Cruise Line, the dancers have been working extremely hard to fundraise through various bake sales, car washes, selling gift items, and hosting

local events. Their goal is to reach \$14,000, enough money to cover the cost of each dancer. In just the few short months since September, they have already raised \$6,000! The dancers are working diligently on their dances for the upcoming competition season, which

will also be the dances that they perform on the cruise. The ensemble dancers are a kind, caring, hard-working group who cherish the opportunity to experience dancing on a professional stage.

To help support the Ronnie McLaughlin dance ensemble, there will

be a beef and beer/silent auction on Saturday, April 1, at Bobby Ray's Tavern in Pennsauken. Contact the dance studio at (856) 665-0442, or mclaughlin-dance@verizon.net for further information and to purchase a ticket.



Dance students at Ronnie McLaughlin Dance Studio are raising funds for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: to perform for guests on the Carnival Cruise Line.

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Pennsauken Administrator Ed Grochowski Retires



Former Township Administrator Ed Grochowski, seen here with John Kneib, Pennsauken's mayor for 2016, as well as Tim, Eileen, and Matt Grochowski, was honored at a special event for his 13 years of service to the Pennsauken community.

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Online Resources Help Keep Pennsauken Residents Informed

Since the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Jan. 16 is a holiday, does it affect trash pickup? Who do I talk to about a business that doesn't maintain their property? What do I do if I have a question about my upcoming court date? These are just some of the questions residents may have this month. Sometimes, finding the answers are easy. Other times, residents may not know where to go to get the information they need. Fortunately, Pennsauken Township has a variety of online tools available that help residents keep informed.

On The Web

Pennsauken Township's web site, twp.pennsauken.nj.us, has several links that can help point residents in the right direction. At the top of the menu on the left hand side of every page on the Township's web site, there's a "What Department Do I Need?" button. From is-

suues about abandoned/vacant properties to zoning questions, you can find the appropriate phone number to get the answers you need by clicking that link.

At the bottom of that same menu, there's a "Keep Me Informed" button. Clicking that link will take you to an online form to sign up for Pennsauken Township's eNewsletter. Residents will be e-mailed information about community events, holiday schedule changes, and more.

By clicking on the "Contact Us" button, you'll find an online form residents can use to reach out to the Clerk's Office, send an issue about Township roads, contact the Police Department, etc. You'll also find a link containing specific extensions for Township staff.

The Pennsauken Police also have an anonymous tip form on the web site. Visit www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/police/anonymous-tip-form and submit your

crime tip without giving any personal information. Your message will be sent directly to detectives in the Pennsauken Police Department.

Social Media

Pennsauken Township has a Facebook page that posts information several times throughout the week and responds to questions from residents. Be sure to visit www.facebook.com/Pennsauken-196359347097277/ and "Like" the page so that updates show up on your newsfeed. The Township's Twitter account, @PennsaukenTwp, generally posts information several times each month.

Reverse 9-1-1

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission employs a reverse 9-1-1 notification system, which informs customers about water main breaks, hydrant flushing, etc. The Township also uses the

system to provide updates on changes to trash and recycling pick up, snow closures, and more. If you haven't signed up already, visit www.mpwc.com/notify-me/ and complete the form on the page.

So be sure to take advantage of these online resources to get notifications from the Township and stay informed. And for the record, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is not a "trash holiday," but many do

clean-up projects in parks and neighborhoods as part of this day of service. Pennsauken's Building Department would handle complaints about businesses not maintaining their property. They can be called at (856) 665-1000 x130 or 131. And for questions regarding upcoming court dates, please call the Municipal Court directly at (856) 663-1403 or fax them at (856) 665-8127.

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inSchool

Fall Semester Ends Successfully In Pennsauken

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd2., M.S., M.B.S., Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools

The year of 2016 is now behind us and we embrace a hopeful 2017. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with their loved ones and received plenty of rest. We are ready to embrace a new year filled with new challenges and up-to-the-minute successes. I would like to thank the administrators, teachers, parents, and students for their hard work during the fall semester. I encourage everyone to

stay positive and optimistic. Please remember the value of hard work; it is the only predecessor to success. More to the point, Colin Powell stated, "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." Our students have faced new challenges this year and have grown tremendously. Although not always easy, students have used benchmark exams to grow in the standards, pacing guide, and curriculum. Through our benchmarks, we have pinpointed student strengths

and weaknesses necessary for academic growth and improvement, which will further promote overall intellectual development. Our students, parents and educators have done an excellent job, working hard and achieving success.

High School

From transportation to daily operation, the high school is truly one of the most proficient secondary educational institutions I have seen. All of our administrators are dedicated and Mr. Munford is an exceptionally diligent principal. He has a great team of assistant principals that are persistent in the school's daily operation. Our teachers have shown the importance of keeping students on task throughout the day and the importance of their content in a student's educational portfolio. The teachers that devote their time to extracurricular activities spend countless hours in the school promoting the importance of teamwork, devotion, loyalty, and fair play. Our football, soccer, and field hockey teams performed exceptionally this season, thanks to the dedication of the coaches and the tenacity of the students. Our transition to a high school

with multiple academies and career and technical education programs is progressing at a very proficient rate.

Middle And Intermediate Schools

Students at the middle school and intermediate schools have shown tremendous growth in academics this semester. The middle school principal, Mr. Honeyman, and the Intermediate School Principal, Mr. Bonkowski, continue to efficiently collaborate in order to offer our students a smooth transition from primary to secondary education. I am very grateful to the teachers, who build the educational foundation needed to successfully promote student educational growth and readiness for secondary education.

Elementary Schools

Our elementary schools have run very efficiently since the beginning of the semester and continue their smooth operation. Students have grown both communally, mentally, and emotionally this semester, which prepares them for the intermediate school in the future. Just as important, our students have had a great deal of fun this semester and love their experience in Pennsauken Elementary

Schools. I would like to thank Mrs. Harmon, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Joyce, and Mr. Lewis for their diligence as building principals; as well as our supervisors, Mrs. Massey, Mrs. Schmitt, and Mrs. Plasky, for their commendable jobs as building administrators in our three smaller elementary schools, providing the leadership needed in those buildings. Finally, the teachers of our elementary students are so dedicated to our kids and their education. It is not easy to teach all content areas and proficiently stay on pace with the curriculum in multiple subjects. In this first semester, our elementary teachers have performed this task masterfully.

Spend Time With The Super

Please join me each month for "Coffee and Questions with the Superintendent" taking place on Thursdays before the Board Meetings (business meeting) from 5:00 to 6:55 p.m. at Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd. Parents are encouraged to come to the high school's main office and will then be directed to the location of the meeting. These are times where concerned parents or Pennsauken residents can come and ask questions regarding any topic within the school district.

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Fine School Celebrates Students Of The Month



Congratulations to Fine School's Students of the Month for December! Students were recognized for being respectful and displaying good manners.

Carson Students Get Creative With Gingerbread

Second graders at Carson School received a gingerbread cutout and were asked to make their own gingerbread person. Fourth graders, along with teachers at Carson, vote for the prettiest, funniest, and most original. Pictured are the first three gingerbread people made by students this winter.



Fine School Family Book Bingo Night



Students at Fine School, along with their parents, enjoyed a night of family bingo, fun, and snacks. Winners were awarded with books donated by staff members.

Phifer Students "Destined For Greatness"



Congratulations to those Phifer students "Destined for Greatness" for the month of November: Camtu Thach, Nicholas Wolfi, Manin Nan, Zachariah Cooper, Marlena Diaz, Logan Endes, Chris Sullivan, Nhan Nguyen, Natalys Gonzalez, Mehki Rippey, Vy Le, Vicky Huynh, and Noah Brown.

Phifer Students Participate In 20th Annual Turkey Trot



Phifer Middle School students recently participated in the 20th annual Turkey Trot, a run designed to introduce students to the sport of cross country. This year, turkeys were donated from Associated Market, Nurse Susan Fuir, Kari Domitrovits, and Cheri Schlags. Congratulations to winners Anthony Howard, seventh grade; Eion Roman, eighth grade; Yerly Caquias, seventh grade; and Jade Pope, eighth grade.

Carson School Promotes Multicultural Understanding



Second graders at Carson School enjoy singing songs and working with Mrs. Ruane, Mrs. Davis, and Mrs. Messina to create miniature Turkish rugs.

More Turkey please! Carson School's second graders are continuing to enjoy Turkey, even though Thanksgiving has passed. As part of a school-wide multicultural program that fosters an understanding and appreciation of different cultures, students are excited about all they have learned about the country of Turkey. Mrs. Buket Davis works with the classes of Mrs. Maggie Ruane and Mrs. Colleen Messina to share her first-hand knowledge of the country of her birth. Students continued to explore the geography, history, dress, customs, songs, culture, and foods of Turkey.

Baldwin Students Learn About Buildings



Susan Starts from the Pennsauken Free Public Library gave a tour of the Children and Young Adult section to students from Baldwin School.

Throughout the month of November, Baldwin school students have studied buildings. The students learned about the materials used to make buildings; tools that are used to construct buildings; and most importantly, they learned about buildings in our neighborhood and the people who worked there. Mrs. Rosenman and Mrs. Schott thought there wasn't a better way to end the building study than by visiting one of our most important buildings in Pennsauken, the Library! Susan Starts from the Library's Children and Young Adult section welcomed the Baldwin teachers and students and gave a tour of the important sections for children's books and activities. Mrs. Starts read "Pete The Cat: Rocking In My School Shoes" by James Dean and students completed a fun craft. The teachers and students had a wonderful time visiting the Pennsauken Library!

PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor
nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net

Kindergartners Learn About Fire Safety



Kindergarten students at Roosevelt School enjoyed a tour of the Bloomfield Fire Station and learned valuable lessons about fire safety.

Carson School Honors Veterans

In November, Carson School honored veterans from our school district and the community.

Students served a continental breakfast to guests and recognized their service through songs, letters, and crafts. Mr. Gilbride, a science teacher at Phifer Middle School, shared his experiences as a reservist called to active duty after the terror attacks on September 11, 2001.

Mrs. Joyce was proud of the entire Carson community and their participation in this event. She was delighted to have her daughter and father in attendance; both had served in the Navy.



Carson principal Diane Joyce with her father and daughter, both of whom served in the United States Navy. Carson School honored veterans during a special event in November.

Visit our web site www.pennsauken.net



By the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; Allyson Meloni-Scavuzzo, Vice President; Cheryl Duffy; Michael Hurley; Diane Johnson; Leona Moss; Meg Snyder; Orlando Viera; and JoAnn Young

As we usher in a New Year, the Pennsauken Board of Education will start 2017 with its annual reorganization meeting. The purpose of the reor-

A New Year, A New Board Of Education

ganization meeting is to certify and accept the November election results, officially install those individuals who were successfully elected in November and to appoint the Board of Education's President and Vice president for the upcoming year. For districts that hold their elections in November, this special meeting must, by law, occur during the first week of January.

The Pennsauken Board of Education had three seats that were up for election to a three year term in November. The successful candidates included two current members of the Board of Education who were re-elected, Nick Perry and Joann Young. Jennifer Slattery was also elected and will be a new member to the Board. Mr. Perry, Mrs. Young and

Mrs. Slattery will be officially sworn in during the reorganization meeting which will occur on Thursday, Jan. 5, 7:00 p.m., in Room 327 of Pennsauken High School, located at 800 Hylton Rd.

As these new members take their seats, we will be saying goodbye to Meg Snyder, who will be concluding her three-year term. Mrs. Snyder was an important part of many initiatives that the Board completed, including updating our entire policy manual, which had not been reviewed in over 20 years; as well as helping to re-vamp the district website.

The annual Board reorganization is always a time filled with excitement, as we move toward achieving our future goals with the newly seated members. We, as a Board, look forward to working together in 2017

to ensure the success of the Pennsauken School District. We wish all members of the Pennsauken School District and the residents of Pennsauken a successful, happy and healthy New Year!

Board Bit Of The Month

Board of Education elections in New Jersey historically took place during the month of April, with re-organization immediately following. In 2012, the State of New Jersey gave districts the option to move their elections to November. Pennsauken Board of Education elections have been held in November since that time. As a result of this change, reorganization for the Board now occurs in January.



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Intermediate School Holds Holiday Chorus Concert

By Taylor Robinson

On Dec. 6, Pennsauken Intermediate School hosted its annual Holiday Chorus Concert, lead by director Miss Nelson. All of the singers dressed in black for the occasion and were excited to perform.

The concert had two different performances: one during the day for the school; and one at night for parents. Both the fifth and sixth grade choruses performed several songs, including: "The Frosty Hand Jive," "Christmas Time," "Beauty and the Beast," and "The Christmas Tree Feud."

Each student worked four days a week during school to prepare for this concert. During rehearsals, Miss Nelson worked hard helping each student with their sound and memorizing words to the songs. Overall, the concert was very entertaining and we are excited for the spring concert this year!



Chorus director Miss Nelson helps students perform a musical number during the Intermediate School's Holiday Chorus Concert.

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Talented High School Artists Display Their Work

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Students in Mrs. Hall's Art I and II classes displayed their work at a special gallery exhibition held at Pennsauken High School.

"I want the kids to get a grasp of what a gallery opening and reception is and to congratulate them and build up their confidence," explains Krystal Hall, an art teacher at Pennsauken High School. "They deserve to be celebrated."

Students from the Art I class displayed realistic portraits in charcoal; Art II students showcased amazing wire sculpture art. There were also several pieces that employed hats as a canvas.

Artists had an opportunity to offer constructive criticism and feedback from their peers and they enjoyed a special reception and breakfast made by Mrs. Hall.

"I think they did an awesome job," adds Hall. "They deserve this."

After the special reception, the gallery was open for other students and high school staff to enjoy. In addition, all of the pieces will be submitted to the annual Art Show and Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library.

To view a photo gallery of the students' artwork, visit AllAroundPennsauken.com.



Eddie Santiago shows off his charcoal portrait, "Cassie," during a special art exhibition at Pennsauken High School. Also pictured is Ronnie Tarchichi, superintendent, Pennsauken School District; and Krystal Hall, art teacher at Pennsauken High School.

Hit That Ball! Intermediate Students Enjoy Volleyball Competition



Gym teachers at Pennsauken Intermediate School are helping students learn the game of volleyball through friendly and fun scrimmages.

By Cassidy Clark, Student, Pennsauken Intermediate School

It's time to bump, set, and serve here at Pennsauken Intermediate School. During December and January, every gym period class is competing against one another for a taste of victory.

Each volleyball team is coached by one of the five gym teachers: Ms. Medina, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Wetzel, Mr. Whitehead, and Mrs. Barker. Each teacher instructs the students on both the rules of the game of volleyball, and also the life lessons that we will use every day. They teach us good sportsmanship, team work, and to try your best in every situation.

Volleyball is one of the most loved sports that our students get to play here at the Intermediate School. The pressure is on as championships approach this month. After the championships, students will compete against the teachers, which is always a very exciting match.

Who will spike their way to victory? Only time will tell.

Roosevelt School Celebrates Students Of The Month



Last month, students at Roosevelt School were recognized for being respectful and displaying good manners. Congratulations!

If you have a financial emergency you may be eligible for a one-time-only grant from Pennsauken Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Applications are available for pick up at the Library or through pennsaukenneighbors.org.

Phone messages are also accepted at 856-397-6282.

All completed applications must be mailed to Neighbors Helping Neighbors P.O. Box 258, Pennsauken, NJ 08110.

Hispanic Heritage Month At Fine School



Students at Fine Elementary gave performances in culturally authentic clothing during Hispanic Heritage Month.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, students learned about the value of using the talents we are given to contribute to society.

Fine Elementary celebrated Hispanic Americans who are renowned for their contributions in the arts, engineering, entertainment, science, and sports here in the United States. Some of the famous Hispanics highlighted included painter Frida Kahlo, boxer Oscar de la Hoya, baseball player Roberto Clemente, and more.

After studying the various Hispanic cultures, students gave performances dressed up in authentic clothing, played instruments, and danced to the rhythms of Salsa, Mexican Hat, and Spanish Pop music.

Special thanks to Ms. Ortiz, Mrs. Cotto, and to all the students for making this assembly such a huge success.

High School Students Attend HBCU College Fair



Last November, students from Pennsauken High School participated in the Malcolm Bernard Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) College Fair, located at the BB&T Pavilion in Camden. Forty students attended and over twenty were accepted to multiple colleges on the spot. Our students represented Pennsauken High School well. We are proud of our students and wish them luck in all of their future endeavors.

Tradition Continues At PHS Winter Vocal Concert



An annual tradition, Pennsauken High School students, alumni, and other audience members, under the direction of vocal music director Kate Brown, sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" as part of the Winter Vocal Concert. Photo credit: Kristen Weber.

POW! Phifer Comic Book And Manga Club Springs To Action

By Youssef Rafeh, Seventh Grade, Howard M. Phifer Middle School

At Howard M. Phifer Middle School, the Comic Book and Manga Club is held during tenth period. This club is run by the Spanish teacher, Mr. Kates, who has been teaching in the Pennsauken School District for 10 years.

"I think Comic Book and Manga Club is a fun way to enhance literacy skills through an unconventional medium," says Mr. Kates.

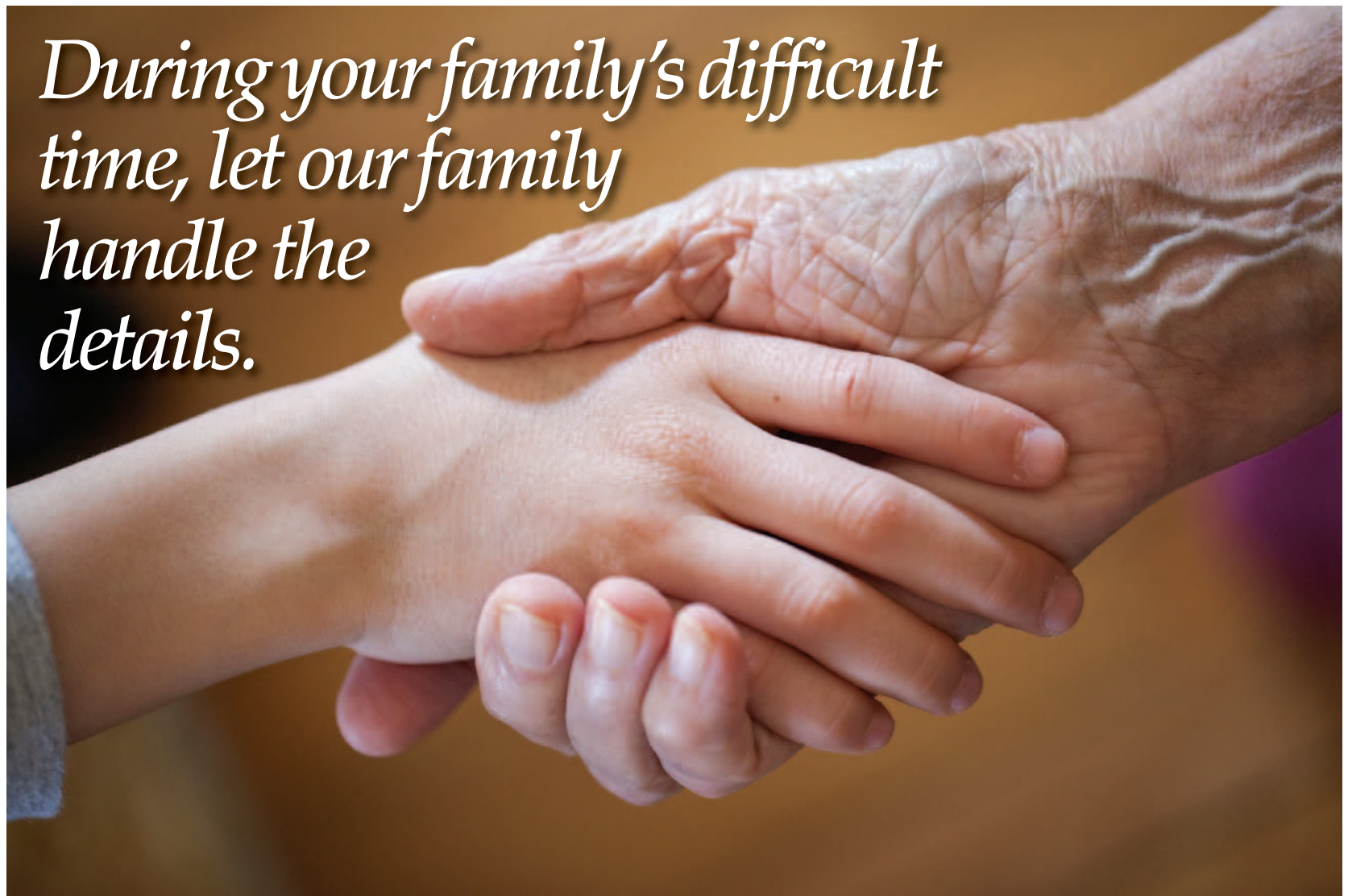
Mr. Kates has also said that he is very excited for Comic Book and Manga Club, because he has many plans for it.

Most days in Comic Book and Manga Club, the students spend their time reading and discussing comics. But on certain days

of the ten-day cycle, students participate in different activities. One such activity was comparing DC and Marvel characters to Greek gods and goddesses, explaining that each superhero has a mythological counterpart. Another activity was playing a Jeopardy-styled trivia game about comic book characters and publishers called "Geo-pardy." Mr. Kates joked that we didn't want to get sued for using the name of the popular game show. On yet another day, students were allowed to make up a comic book hero of their own.

According to one student Logan Endes, one of the appealing things about Comic Book and Manga Club is that "you get to socialize with fellow comic book lovers."

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DOMINO SUGAR
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\$1.99

with coupon.

Limit 1 per customer



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NEW YEAR!**



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PORK CHOPS**
\$1.99 lb

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Limit 10 lbs.



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**FRESH GRADE A
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CHICKEN BREAST**
\$1.49 lb

with coupon. Limit 10 lbs.



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IDAHO POTATOES
5 lb Bag
\$.99

with coupon.

Limit 1 per customer.



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**YELLOW RIPE
BANANA'S**
\$.29 lb

with coupon

Limit 10 lbs.



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**FRESH DOMESTIC
DELI HAM**
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with coupon.



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Valid at this location only.
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YELLOW OR WHITE
AMERICAN CHEESE**
\$2.99 LB

with coupon.



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Coupon valid from 1/1 to 1/31/2017

What To Look For When Picking A Contractor

By Frank Sinatra, Editor,
All Around Pennsauken

With the start of a new year, folks start thinking of getting some work done at their homes. Maybe it's a do it yourself project that you can handle, but for the bigger things, like have a tree removed or a bathroom remodel, you're going to need some help. For the most part, people don't have problems finding a contractor to get the job done. But we've all heard of the horror stories associated with home contractors. You may have even experienced it firsthand: shoddy workmanship; cut corners that turn into bigger problems; and unfinished projects with contractors missing in action.

So what can you do to make sure you're not left holding the bag and forced to spend extra time and money correcting contracting mistakes? Here are some simple steps that can help prevent bigger issues down the road.

Make Sure They're Registered

All individuals who do home improvements in the state of New Jersey need to be licensed with the Division of Consumer Affairs. Contractors are required by law to "prominently display" their registration numbers at their place of business, all advertisements placed in the state,

on business contracts, and any correspondence with consumers of home improvement services in New Jersey.

Contractors need to renew their license with the Division of Consumer Affairs on an annual basis, so be sure that their documentation is up to date. You can search for licensed contractors online at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/HIC/.

In addition, home improvement contractors also need to have a certificate of commercial general liability insurance in a minimum amount of \$500,000 per occurrence.

Do I Need A Contract?

All contracts exceeding \$500 and all changes in the terms and conditions of the contract need to be in writing. The contract needs to have some key elements to it, including, but not limited to:

- The legal name, business address, and contractor's registration number, and the legal name and business address of the sales representative who negotiated the contract
- A copy of the certificate of commercial general liability insurance for \$500,000 per occurrence, and the telephone number of the insurance issuing the certificate
- A description of the work to be performed

and principal products and materials to be used or installed

- A statement of any guarantee or warranty with respect to any product, material, labor or service made by the seller of home improvement
- The description of any mortgage or security interest to be taken in connection with the finance or sale of the home improvement
- The total price, including finance charges
- Signatures by all parties involved

By law, the contract can be cancelled at any time before midnight of the third day after receiving a copy of the contract. If a home owner cancels this contract within the three day period, they are entitled to a full refund of their money. Refunds must be made within 30 days of the contractor's receipt of the cancellation notice.

More information on the process can be found at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/HIC/.

Do Your Homework

Research the contractor using Angie's List and the Better Business Bureau and do a thorough internet search to see if there have been any documented issues

with the company. Ask for references from past customers and give them a call. Also be sure to ask the contractor plenty of questions about the proposed project beforehand, so you have an understanding on timing, resources required, etc. Some good questions to ask would be:

"Do you take on projects of my size?"

"What's the longest this project will take?"

"How many other projects will you have going on at the same time?"

"How long have you worked with your subcontractors?"

Another good idea is to get at least three or four quotes by different contractors for your project. Rely on your support network. Often times, family or friends can help refer contractors they've successfully worked with in the past with good outcomes.

Don't Pay Them Everything

Always hold some money back until the project is finished. A good rule of thumb is to pay your contractor one third of the amount in the beginning of the job, one third at the half way mark, and the final payment after the work has been completed to your satisfaction. Remember that a final payment is not needed in order for a final inspection

on new construction/remodeling by the Township's Building Department. Be sure that you're satisfied with the work before you hand over that last check.

Trust Your Gut

If something's too good to be true, it probably is. It's your property and your money; you have every right to feel 100 percent comfortable with the contractor you're about to start working with. If you don't have a good feeling about something, find another contractor before beginning your project.

You should definitely walk away from using a specific contractor if:

- They want you to apply for the permit under your name
- The contractor does not have a valid Home Improvement Contractor's License
- They cannot provide a copy of their insurance
- The contractor insists on cash or on payment in full before starting work
- They will not give you a contract

For more information about New Jersey's requirements for home improvement contractors, visit www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/HIC/.



Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

1250 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Phone: (856) 663-5542 • Fax: (856) 663-5718 • 24 Hour Emergency: (856) 662-0686

PSA Wishes All A Happy & Prosperous New Year

IMPROPER CONNECTIONS CAUSE PROPERTY DAMAGE

The connection of sump pumps and down spouts to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited. During periods of heavy rain, these connections often overwhelm the main lines. This could result in a sewage back up into your own home or the home of your neighbor. If you need additional information about these types of connections, or suspect you or a neighbor, may have an improper connection and want information about having it removed, please call our office at (856) 663-5542.



REMINDER:

**CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT
PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.**

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday – 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PLEASE USE MAIL SLOT LOCATED IN OUR PUBLIC ENTRANCE DOOR
TO DROP PAYMENTS WHEN THE OFFICE IS CLOSED.

TO PAY YOUR BILL ON-LINE – VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.PSEWER.COM
AND CLICK ON THE BILLING BUTTON – THERE IS A \$3.95 FEE THE
PROVIDER OF THE SERVICE CHARGES EACH
CUSTOMER PER \$175 TRANSACTION.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Last month, FOP Garden State Lodge 3 and the Pennsauken Police Department sadly announced the sudden loss of K9 Chris, a hard working four-legged member of the force.

Pennsauken Police Officer Joe Hurley and his partner K9 Chris were graduates of New Jersey State Police Canine Academy in June of 2012. Since that time, Hurley and K9 Chris were involved in numerous apprehensions and drug seizures. In 2013, All Around Pennsauken highlighted Officer Hurley and K9 Chris when they were recognized by the United States Police Canine Association for their work in apprehending a suspect connected with a robbery of a local 7-11 convenience store. K9 Chris relentlessly tracked the suspect for two hours, leading Hurley directly to where the individual was hiding. The two partners were recognized on the state level for this particular job.

In addition, Hurley and K9 Chris received accolades for a very unique drug bust that same year. While responding to a call about an individual who attempted a home invasion, a claim that ultimately turned out to be a hoax, K9 Chris led Officer Hurley to an unlocked garage where five pounds of marijuana was ready for distribution.

"I love working with the dogs and

Four-Legged Member Of Pennsauken Police Passes Away



K9 Chris, seen here with his handler and partner, Pennsauken Police Officer Joe Hurley, passed away suddenly in early December.

Chris has really grown into the job," said Hurley at the time. "It's very rewarding."

In 2015, Hurley, with help from his partner, received the Richard Dawson Award for Meritorious Service, which annually honors officers that demonstrate exemplary performance of duty.

K9 Chris was extremely active in community relations, interacting with the public at a variety of events, from "meet and greets" with students, to demonstrations at events like the Pennsauken Harvest Festival and Merchantville Mutt Strutt. He was also a loyal member of the Hurley family, accompanying Joe home after being on patrol; and Chris was the best friend of Hurley's four-year-old daughter.

Officer Hurley and his family have re-

ceived numerous cards and notes of sympathy and support following K9 Chris' passing. Social media was also filled with offerings of condolences to the Hurley family and thanking K9 Chris for his dutiful service. Here are a handful of the comments found on Facebook:

"Rest in peace K9 Chris. Thank you

for your service to the community of Pennsauken. You are loved by all who knew you. Thoughts and prayers to your family and the Pennsauken Police Department."

"So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and your family."

"Thanks for a job well done K9!"

Officer Hurley and his family express their appreciation for all of those who have reached out to them during this difficult time. And while the Pennsauken Police and the local community have lost a four-legged member of the force, the Rainbow Bridge just got a lot safer.



WINTER OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 29th 2017

from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm

St. Peter School is a vibrant community of faith and learning for students in Pre-School through 8th Grade. We believe in the formation of the whole child and strive to develop each student's:

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Pennsauken Native Looks For Perfect Match In MTV Reality Show

Pennsauken native Kam Williams is one of 22 contestants looking for love – and a cash prize to go along with it – in season five of MTV's "Are You the One?," a show that takes the matchmaking process to a whole new level.

"Are You The One?" is MTV's wildly popular dating competition spectacle that strives to answer the question, "If your perfect match was standing right in front of you, would you even know it?" The rules may be simple, but the game of love is never easy as 11 couples, with the help of host, Ryan Devlin, try to pair up with their pre-selected ideal partner as determined by a rigorous, pre-season matchmaking process carried out by a team of professional relationship gurus and psychologists. With only 10 tries to find the winning combination, the love seekers will have to follow their hearts if they want to walk away with love and their share of one million dollars.

Kam, a member of Pennsauken High School's graduating class of 2013 who grew

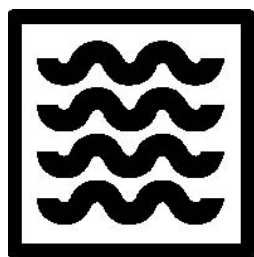


Pennsauken's Kam Williams is a cast member in season five of MTV's "Are You the One?," a show that takes the matchmaking process to a whole new level.

up in the numbered streets along Westfield, has been a longtime fan of the show.

"I've watched previous seasons and said, 'I can do that. If you could put me in that house I could win and find love and money,'" says Williams. "Who

continued on page 29



MPWC WATERLINES

Water Quality: A Continued MPWC Priority In 2017

By Michael A. Saraceni,
Chief Operating Officer

As 2016 came to a close, water quality remained a top priority for all consumers and water purveyors alike. The lead concerns raised in Flint, Michigan brought heightened and widespread attention to the potential for contaminated water to a national level. Locally, the State of New Jersey identified potential health risks from lead in schools statewide and took actions to address those concerns. Schools are required to perform testing and funding has been made available to

assist local school districts. In 2016, the MPWC identified the remaining known lead services and removed them from our system.

Beyond the potential hazards of lead, there exist many unregulated contaminants, such as chromium 6, which also made its way to the media highlights. While various public health organizations are demanding zero presence of these contaminants, the MPWC remains fully compliant with all safe drinking water standards and testing. Please know that it is our practice to continually seek new and more

effective testing and treatment technologies; it is just that important. As such, plans are already in place for increased testing and pilot studies initiated for the improvement of the treatment of water. We intend to remain proactive with regards to water quality and to be in front of the ever-changing regulatory landscape.

Our 2017 operating and capital budgets have addressed. Our focus is on routine plant inspection and preventative maintenance; plant security system upgrades; main replacement; elevated tank repairs and painting; dead end main replacement; valve replacement/exercise program; supervisory control

and data acquisition technology upgrades; and water meter replacement. The maintenance of a 100-year-old infrastructure requires diligence, tenacity and funding. Where most utilities fail is the lack of planning to address their needs proactively and responsibly. In 2017, we will be adjusting our water rates to provide the necessary funding to maintain our standard of service and delivery to our customers. Our six percent increase for the owner of a single family home, which currently averages water costs of \$55 per quarter, will increase to an average of \$59 per quarter. This rate is still well below the cost that most of our surrounding utilities charge for

the same amount of water.

Please know that the commissioners and staff at the MPWC place a high priority on maintaining your trust and confidence in our efforts to preserve your quality of life. We remain committed to seeking and implementing those steps necessary to live up to your trust.

We thank you in advance for your support and understanding as we strive to maintain the high quality water and service that you are accustomed to enjoying.

For more information, or if you wish to contact us, please visit our web site at www.mppwc.com or call us at (856) 663-0043.

Keep Your Meter Warm This Winter



Meters are prone to freezing temperatures, just like the pipes in a home. Keep the area around your meter protected to avoid cracks and leaks. If a meter breaks in the home, it is the customer's responsibility for the replacement.

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING: ❄️



Give pipes a helping hand

If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.



Keep water working

Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run. The cost of the extra water is typically lower than the cost of repairing a broken pipe.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE: ❄️



Shut off the water immediately
Don't attempt to thaw pipes without turning off the main shut-off valve.



Thaw pipes with warm air
You can melt the frozen water in the pipe by warming the air around it with a hair dryer or space heater. Be sure not to leave space heaters unattended and avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.



Be careful turning water back on
Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks that might have been caused by freezing.

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public and are held at 6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken.

Questions about your service?

Call 663-0043 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., emergencies – call 663-0045 anytime.

MERCHANTVILLE – PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION

6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110, 856-663-0043 www.mppwc.com

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President

Mr. Patrick Brennan, Vice President • Mr. G. Burton German, Jr., Treasurer
Mr. George Piperno, Secretary • Mr. Ronald Johnson, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Township Seeks Input On Pennsauken's 125th Anniversary

continued from page 1

1. E-mail your suggestions to aap@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.
2. Visit the Township's web site at twp.pennsauken.nj.us and use the online form.
3. Fill out a paper form, available at both the front desk of the Municipal Building and the circulation department at the Pennsauken Free Public Library.

Art Show To Have 125th Anniversary Theme

As part of the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library 10th annual Art Show and Sale this April, the organization would like to include art work with a Pennsauken theme in honor of the town's 125th anniversary.

"While it's not a requirement, it's a

nice jumping off point in case you can't decide what to write, draw, paint, sketch, sculpt, or photograph," says Arlene Miller, a member of the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library. "Long-time Pennsauken residents have lots of memories to work with, while newer residents may see things in a whole new light. Regardless of the subject matter, we hope to get in a lot of interesting submissions."

For more information on this year's Art Show and Sale, which runs from April 23-30, visit the Pennsauken Free Public Library.

The deadline for community suggestions for the 125th anniversary is Friday, Jan. 13. For questions or more information, e-mail aap@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

Township Committee Reorganization Public Meeting Held On January 4

continued from page 1

The agenda includes the swearing in of three board members who were elected to three-year terms: Nick Perry, Jennifer Slattery, and Joann Young; as well as the appointment of both this year's board president and vice president. In addition, the new board will set the 2017 meeting dates for the Pennsauken Township

Board of Education.

All work sessions for the Board of Education are held at the Pennsauken Board of Education Administration Building, 1695 Hylton Rd., Pennsauken; business meetings are held in Room 327 of Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd., Pennsauken. All meetings will be at the

times specified during the reorganization meeting. The 2017 meeting schedule will be located at Pennsauken.net, as well as in the Board of Education's papers of record, the Courier-Post and Central Record. Information about these meetings will also be published monthly in All Around Pennsauken in the InSchools section.



All Around Pennsauken

Editor: FRANK SINATRA

Deadline For News:

10th of the month

Write to

All Around Pennsauken
c/o Pennsauken Municipal Building
5605 Crescent Boulevard
Pennsauken, NJ 08110
(856) 665-1000 Ext. 127

Fax: (856) 665-2749

E-mail: aap@twp.pennsauken.nj.us

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inBooks

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A Fresh Start In 2017 With Help From The Pennsauken Library

Happy New Year! It's 2017; with a fresh 12 months on the calendar, many decide to try to make positive changes in their lives. If you're one of those people looking to make a New Year's Resolution, the Pennsauken Free Public Library can help you keep on track.

Looking to change your career? The Library's Reference Department has an entire section for job seekers looking to make a move. Library patrons can use our computers with internet access to upload their résumés or fill out on-line job applications. For those looking to become their own boss, there are plenty of books on how to start your

own company.

Want to exercise more or learn how to eat better? The Library has videos on everything from aerobics to yoga; as well as a variety of books on eating healthy and staying fit.

Interested in learning a new language? Pennsauken's Library offers a variety of CDs that help patrons learn Spanish, Japanese, French, and more.

Taking up a new hobby? The Library has plenty of resources on a bunch of top-



The Pennsauken Free Public Library has plenty of resources to help you keep your New Year's resolutions.

ics, from baking, knitting, scrapbooking, and many, many more.

There are plenty of books, CDs, and DVDs at the Pennsauken Free Public Library to expand your horizons, so that 2017 isn't just a start of a new year, it's the beginning of a newer you!

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HOURS:

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Sunday: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED: Sunday, Jan. 1 and Monday,
Jan. 2 for New Year's Day; and
Monday, Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

January Events at the Library

- Health Insurance Marketplace Special Enrollment – Fridays, Jan. 6, 13, 20, & 27; 3:00-5:00 p.m. Throughout the year, appointments are available for those who would like to investigate their eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP, or for those who have had qualifying changes to their health insurance (such as losing your job, getting married, having a baby or having a death in the family). You must make an appointment to meet with the Health Care Navigator. Please call (877) 922-2377 to make an appointment.
- Library Board Meeting – Monday, Jan. 23; 6:00 p.m. The governing body for the Pennsauken Library. Each month the members meet to review current issues, budget, policies and staffing. The community is encouraged to attend these meetings.

For Children Accompanied By Their Caregivers:

- LEGO Club – Thursdays, Jan. 10 & 31; 4:30-6:30 p.m. You bring the creativity and imagination and we supply the LEGOs and DUPLOs (for use in the Library only).
- Toddler Movement – Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, & 28; 10:30 a.m. For ages 2-5. Join Miss Sabrina and Miss Susan for a fun and active time of music and guided movements.
- Baby Ballet – Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, & 28; 11:00 a.m. For ages 2-5. Join Miss Sabrina and Miss Susan for a fun and active time of music and dance.
- Storytime – Mondays, Jan. 9, 23, & 30; 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays Jan. 5, 12, 19, & 26; 1:00 p.m. For ages 0-5. Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina welcome you to a fun-filled time of stories, songs, and a craft.

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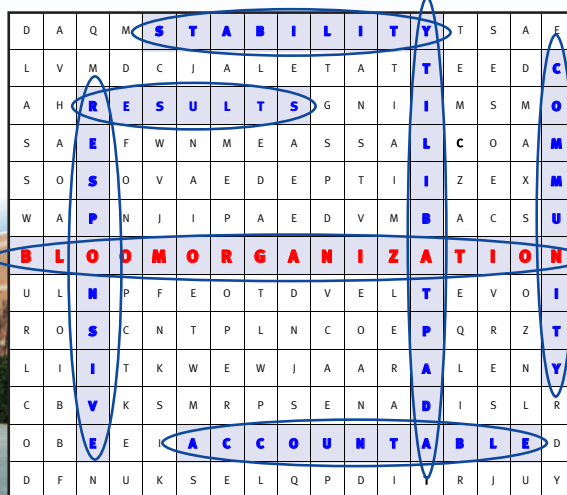


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GOING GREEN A Green Way To Clean Your Oven After The Holidays

By Kathleen Harvey,
AAP Columnist

We cooked, cleaned, and decorated the house to prepare for the holiday festivities. We visited with friends, family, and attended pot luck parties to celebrate the season. The range got lots of use. Now it's time to take down the decorations and clean until everything shines, or at least as clean as it was before the holidays...

For those of us that enjoy cooking, roasting, and baking, but not so much the clean up, the oven can get pretty dirty. Spills from splashing gravy, grease, and boiling overflow can make a mess. Self cleaning ovens instruct the owner to prep the oven before baking off the goo, because heating the oven to very high temperatures is designed to cook off the

spillage, but it doesn't work very well on thick layers of spills that have accumulated over several roasts, casseroles, cakes, and cookie batches. You can buy extremely harsh chemicals that will eat through any debris, but the fumes are strong enough to singe off the hairs of your nose. Commercial oven cleaner is one of the most toxic cleaning products that you can use. Some oven cleaners contain lye and ammonia, which can actually eat through your skin. I don't want to fill my kitchen with fumes and chemicals, and then stick my head in the oven so I can breathe in a concentrated dose.

This natural oven cleaner recipe does a great job of removing grease and burnt on food, without the toxic side effects:

- ¼ cup castile soap or concentrated

dish detergent

- 1 cup baking soda
- ½ cup coarse sea salt
- Hot water for paste, if needed
- Distilled white vinegar, for rinsing

Mix ingredients together to form a thick, spreadable paste, like cake frosting. You want it to stick to the oven walls and not all run into a puddle on the bottom.

Basically, you want to soak the grime into submission. The cleaner should sit on the oven for several hours, or overnight if really thick, to dissolve the grease and burnt-on food. That's when it works best; but if you're in a hurry, you can use a little extra elbow grease to scrub the oven clean. Wear dish gloves while scrubbing, to avoid getting the grime under fingernails. Be

gentle on oven glass. Don't use this mixture on glass, it could scratch. After scrubbing the grime off, rinse the entire oven, including the glass, with vinegar.

Now your oven is ready for a fresh batch of cookies, or something healthier if you need to burn off some of the calories from the holidays.

Happy New Year everyone!

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Food Adventures: Celebrating Little Christmas

By Rachael Rivera, AAP Columnist

Happy New Year! This month, I thought it'd be fun to visit a less mainstream holiday and the food that comes with it.

My family celebrates the Epiphany, also known as "Little Christmas" or "Three Kings Day" to some people. This holiday, which celebrates the journey of the three Wise Men, who come to visit the Baby Jesus, takes place on Jan. 6 each year.

The holiday is very similar to Christmas; in exchange for children leaving out hay or grass for the Wise Men's camels the night before, they receive a small gift the next morning. There's also the dinner celebration. A predominantly Spanish holiday, there is an eclectic collection of treats available. Some traditional dishes include the well-known rice and beans; as well as pasteles, which consists of grated green banana, green plantain, potato, and calabazas. It's seasoned with liquid from

the meat mixture, milk, and annatto oil. The meat is prepared as a stew and usually contains any combination of ham, bacon, raisins, chickpeas, olives, and capers; and is commonly seasoned with bay leaves, recaito, tomato sauce, adobo, and annatto oil. The meat used can be poultry, fish, pork, or game.

We also enjoy relleno de papa. They are delicious, fried potato balls filled with seasoned meat. The mixture for the potato ball varies with every family, but my abuela (grandmother) manages to make to perfect base for this dish. The meat filling is prepared similar to that of the pasteles. Other treats in the category of fried, meat-filled delights for this celebration include alcapurrias and pastelios.

Another dish to warm you to the bone on a cold winter day is sancocho. This is a Spanish stew that normally includes meats and fresh veggies. This dish is hundreds of years old and has been a mainstay of Puerto Rican households

everywhere. Like all other dishes, each family has a certain tweak to this dish. Some people put in mini corn cobs, while others use a variety of gourds, such as pumpkin, squash, etc. I've even heard of some families adding a small amount of pasta. The seasoning in this stew is what makes it.

With most families, only one thing beats the amazing spread of dishes available; it's that you get to enjoy these treats with the ones you love. Even if you don't celebrate "Little Christmas," take a chance and try some of these dishes. You can find them around town at places like Liz & Jay's Mini Market in the Delair section of Pennsauken, located at the corner of River and Lennox roads; or try Linda's Grocery Store at 4739 Westfield Ave., right across from the Post Office.

No matter where you go and what delights you try, just remember to enjoy your food adventure.

Fire Department Escorts Santa Through Pennsauken

Jolly Ol' Saint Nicholas got a chance to visit the children of Pennsauken, courtesy of the Pennsauken Township Fire Department.



Pennsauken Lions Club Co-Sponsors Shopping Spree For Visually Impaired Children

On Dec. 4, more than 30 visually impaired children and teens shopped for their families at an annual event sponsored by both the Pennsauken and Haddonfield Lions Clubs.

Blind and/or visually impaired students from Haddonfield and Gloucester City are contacted through the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to come to the Target store in Cherry Hill with their parents. The children receive gift cards and are escorted around the store to buy presents for their families by members of the Pennsauken and Haddonfield Leo Clubs, a youth auxiliary of the Lions. The students received free gift wrapping for their presents and had time for socializing, snacks, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

This annual tradition is now in its 20th

year, bringing smiles and holiday joy to visually impaired children and their families. A special thank you to all of the volunteers, as well as the Target store in Cherry Hill, for making this event possible.

The Pennsauken Lions Club supports numerous organizations that help visually impaired people in our region and throughout the world. Our local group hosts numerous events, including holiday shopping for visually impaired children and teens; cigar night and pancake breakfast fundraisers; and local eye screenings at Pennsauken elementary schools. The Lions also sponsor a Leo Club for students at Pennsauken High School, which helps instill in our young people a spirit of giving back to the community. For more information about the Pennsauken Lions Club, visit PennsaukenLionsClub.org.



More than 30 visually impaired children and teens were treated to a shopping spree at Target with help from both the Pennsauken and Haddonfield Lions Clubs. The young people were escorted around the store to shop for their families, received free gift wrapping, and had an opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

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PUBLICWORKS Ushering In The New Year With Hopes For A Mild Winter

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director, Department of Public Works

We awoke on December 15, 2016 to a dusting of snow and some black ice in spots of town. Although plowing operations won't begin until three to four inches of accumulation, your Department of Public Works has the two-story rock salt storage building filled to the brim and ready for whatever conditions the winter throws our way.

A winter article wouldn't be complete without the mentioning of pot holes. Public Works has a designated crew that responds to all reports of pot holes located on Pennsauken roads. Last year, I updated the Public Works section on the township website to include an article with pictures of what causes pot holes.

Remember, not all roads within

Pennsauken's borders are owned by the town. You have a weaving of state roads such as Routes 130, 70, 38, and 73, in addition to a number of county roads that are maintained by the Camden County Department of Public Works. The county roads are: Federal St.; Maple Ave.; River Rd.; Marlton Pike; Kaighn Ave.; Westfield Ave.; 36th St.; Browning Rd.; Lexington Ave., between Maple Ave. and Rt. 70; Union Ave.; Church Rd.; Cove Rd.; Chestnut Ave. between Browning Rd. to East Hollywood Circle; Rogers Ave. between Rt. 130 and Cove Rd.; Park Ave.; Centre St.; Chapel Ave.; North Park Drive; Magnolia and Clayton avenues between Cuthbert Blvd. and Chapel Ave.; Wisteria Ave. between Lexington Ave. and Cuthbert Blvd.; Haddonfield Rd.; Highland Ave. from

Marlton Pike to Rt. 130; Myrtle Ave. between Highland Ave. to Rt. 130; Terrace Ave. between Federal St. and Rt. 130; Woodland Ave. between Federal St. and Rt. 130; and Sherman Ave. between Westfield Ave. and River Rd.

To report potholes found on County Roads, call Camden County's Department of Public Works at (856) 566-2980, or use their web site to submit a form. For all potholes found on Pennsauken roads, just give our office a call or shoot us an email at the info listed below. Repairs will begin when weather conditions are conducive for an effective patch.

A Word Of Caution

In December, we received a cluster of phone calls reporting that a certain tree A Word Of Caution: removal service had been abandoning residential jobs when it came to clean-up time, leaving heaps of debris behind and residents helpless. Please ensure that any contractor knocking on your door for work is insured in their field. Have a conversation with the salesperson to assure that they will take care of the debris removal. All tree service contractors should either a.) Remove all

debris from your property; or b.) Properly and neatly place the debris at the curb. Although there is an unlimited amount of yard debris that you may place at the curb each Wednesday, please remember that there is a particular way to place that debris curbside: sticks and branches less than three inches in diameter can be bundled with twine in lengths less than four feet long and weighing less than 50 pounds. Any large limbs or tree trunks over three inches can be cut up into firewood-sized pieces and stacked at the curb. A phone

call to our office will get you on the list for a Public Works' "wood pick-up." This is an unscheduled pick-up where the inclement weather prevents the tree crew from working in the area, but can use a front-end loader for removal.

I hope you and your loved ones found the holiday season to be enjoyable and we look forward to serving you in 2017. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach us at (856) 663-0178 or e-mail publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us

TALKIN' TRASH

As New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, there are no "trash holidays" in January. Trash and recycling collection, as well as yard waste and white goods pickup, remain on a regular schedule.

There are no special waste collection events scheduled for this month.

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We are happy to welcome the addition of Susan Midili, NP to our practice. She comes to us with many years of experience in family medicine. She is now accepting patients.

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Stew \$3.69 lb
Ribs \$1.99 lb
Short Ribs \$3.99 lb
Ground Beef \$1.99 lb
Beef Sausage \$13.99 pack

Tuesday's Pork

Pork Roast \$1.99
Loins \$1.59 lb
Chops \$1.49 lb
Centers \$1.99 lb
Ribs \$1.99 lb
Fresh Picnic \$1.39 lb

Wednesday's Chicken

Whole - cut \$1.29 lb
Legs Quarters \$17.90
Breaded Wings \$16.99
Party Wings \$69.90
Drums \$.99 lb
Boneless Breasts \$1.29 lb

Thursday's Turkey

Meatball \$3.99 pack
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Chops \$2.99 lb
Ground \$1.99 lb
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Friday's Seafood

Tilapia \$3.59 lb
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Pennsauken's historic Burrough-Dover House was decorated for the holidays during the 306-year-old house's last open house of the year.



John Kneib, mayor of Pennsauken during 2016, and Santa Claus count down during the town's first tree lighting in over a decade. The tree was decorated with 800 individual lights and 100 plus ornaments and hand-made bows.



Last month, Merchantville Masonic Lodge #119 F&AM held its annual Christmas Basket Drive, making and distributing 50 food baskets for those in need during the holidays. Baskets included a turkey or ham; all the fixings needed for a holiday dinner; as well as extra can goods to help during the winter months.



Kids had a chance to tell "the man with all the toys" what they wanted for Christmas during the Township's annual Breakfast with Santa.

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Pricing Changes To Occur For Residents Enrolled In Energy Aggregation Program

continued from page 1

sauken or call Talen Energy Customer Care at (888) 289-7693.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there price a change?

There are two price changes. The first change will start in January, when your price will change to reflect a lower New Jersey Sales Use Tax (SUT) that takes effect starting January 1, 2017. The second change will reflect an increase in regulated transmission rates that affect all residents served by PSE&G that takes effect starting March 1, 2017.

What will be my new price? How long

will it last?

- Your price for electricity supply in December is \$0.10865/kWh.
- Your price for electricity supply in January will be between \$0.10852/kWh and \$0.10865/kWh. The actual price will be based on the number of days in your bill cycle this month.
- Your price for electricity supply in February will be \$0.10852/kWh.
- Your price for electricity supply in March will be \$0.11161/kWh. That price will remain the same through the end of your term with Talen Energy in September, 2017.

Am I still saving money?

Yes. Even with the price changes, you are still saving money. As of December 15, 2016, the Tariff PSE&G price to compare is \$0.11839, and it is expected to be higher when the increase regulated transmission rates is applied to the price to compare starting in March, 2017.

I thought this was a fixed price product? Why is it changing?

The structure of the auction allowed for suppliers to pass through changes in costs caused by changes in law or regulatory charges not known at the time of the auction. The sales tax decrease is a change in law, and the increased in regulated transmission rates is a change in

regulations.

I don't like these price changes. What can I do?

You can choose to opt-out of the Pennsauken Community Aggregation Program by calling Talen Energy Customer Care at (888) 289-7693. You may also call (877) 292-3904 to opt out.

If you choose to opt out, your electricity supply will be returned to PSE&G for default service at the next available meter read date, and you will pay the PSE&G price to compare for supply.

If I accept these price changes, do I need to do anything?

There is no need to do anything. The

price changes will take effect automatically.

How does this affect my budget billing payments?

If you have budget billing, the amount of money you pay each month for electricity supply does not change as a result of the price changes. The change in price will be incorporated in the true-up balance which will appear the last bill where Talen Energy is the supplier.

When does the Community Energy Aggregation Program end?

This Pennsauken Township Community Energy Aggregation will still end as scheduled with your September 2017 meter read.

Pennsauken Native Looks For Perfect Match In MTV Reality Show

continued from page 21

doesn't want love and money?"

"For me to get picked for this once-in-a-lifetime experience was amazing," added Kam. "I was very excited and very confident to find love and money and to be on TV. Not everybody gets the opportunity to find their perfect match. I was very grateful."

Prior to the show, Kam answered several hundred questions about herself and spoke with psychologists and matchmakers to see how her personality synched up with fellow contestants. She then joined 10 other women and 11 men for an intense 10-week experience.

"We had 11 guys and 11 girls and still had just 10 chances to get all these matches," explains Williams. "Living in the house with 10 different girls and having one out of the 11 guys to be your perfect match, there was a lot of drama and love. It was crazy!"

And while Kam is sure that the audience will be thoroughly entertained by season five of "Are You the One?," she also feels that there's a lot to be learned by watching.

"It's very relatable. Someone who's watching might be able to see the types of people they're compatible with. It can help the audience find love too."

Will Kam find "the one?" Do they win the money? You'll have to find out by watching. MTV's new season of "Are You the One?" airs Wednesday, January 11 at 9:00 p.m.

Join in the "Are You The One?" social conversation on Twitter and Instagram with the official hashtag #AYTO; follow the show's Facebook page and be sure to check out the new Snapchat account: AREYOUTHE1.



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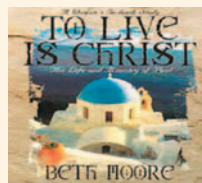
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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

The Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library are excited to announce its 10th annual Art Show and Sale. This year's show will run from April 23-30, held at the Library's Community Room.

Maybe you've been planning to submit a drawing or painting you've been working on or maybe that beach photo that captured the light exactly how you wanted to, but you never quite got around to it; or you remembered the show too late or misplaced your paint brushes and decided to wait until next year. Well, next year is here and April will be here before any of us realizes, so

Friends Of The Library Announce 2017 Art Show And Sale

maybe some planning is in order now to decide what you want to enter, then getting started so you can become one of our participating artists.

In addition, this year marks Pennsauken's 125th anniversary and the Friends would like to include art work with a Pennsauken theme. While it's not a requirement, it's a nice jumping off point in case you can't decide what to write, draw, paint, sketch, sculpt, or photograph. Longtime Pennsauken residents have lots of memories to work with, while newer residents may see things in a whole new light. Regardless of the subject matter, we hope to get in a lot of interesting submissions.

The art show is open to Pennsauken and Merchantville residents; details regarding art submissions are available at the information desk in the lobby of the Library. The Friends will have more information in coming months about the event, as well as other art related activities going on during show week.

Next Munch And A Movie On January 10

Our next Munch and a Movie takes place Tuesday, Jan. 10 in the Library's Community Room beginning at 12:30 p.m. Mum's the word on what cinematic delight we'll be featuring; but if you absolutely must know, call the Library's

circulation desk for the scoop. As always, bring your lunch and we'll supply snacks and beverages.

So get busy. April is really just around

the corner. In the meantime, join us Wednesday, Jan. 11 in the Community Room for our next Friends meeting and share your ideas.

Cooper River Ice Rink Open Through February 14

The Freeholder Board of Camden County has brought the Winterfest Ice Skating Rink back to Cooper River Park to provide family fun now through Feb. 14.

The 60 foot by 120 foot ice rink is constructed in the center of Cooper River Park's Jack Curtis Stadium, located at 5300 North Park Drive in Pennsauken. The park has been transformed into a winter wonderland with twinkling lights in the trees, and vendors selling soft pretzels, hot chocolate, and other tasty treats.

The Winterfest Ice Skating Rink at Cooper River Park will be open Monday through Thursday from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.,

on Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., on Saturday from noon to 10:00 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 9:00 p.m.

Children four years of age and younger will be admitted onto the ice for free. There is a \$4 admission fee for kids, age five to 12. Admission for adults is \$6 and there is a \$4.00 skate rental fee for all ages. In addition, there is plenty of free parking in lots to either side of the stadium. Visit www.skatewinterfest.com for information on skating lessons and more.

"This is another great reason to visit one of Camden County's great parks. Bring the entire family to Cooper River Park and make it your winter tradition,"



Winterfest Ice Skating Rink is open at Cooper River Park now through Feb. 14. Photo credit: Camden County Board of Freeholders.

Nash said. "This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to skating; and who knows? There might be some future figure skaters or hockey players out there."

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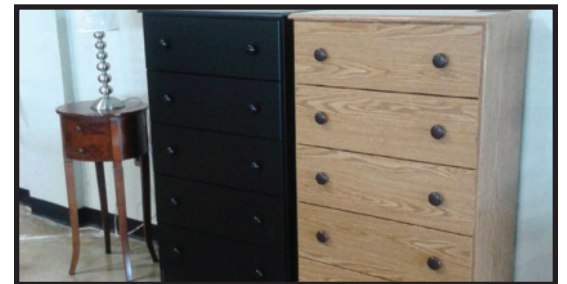


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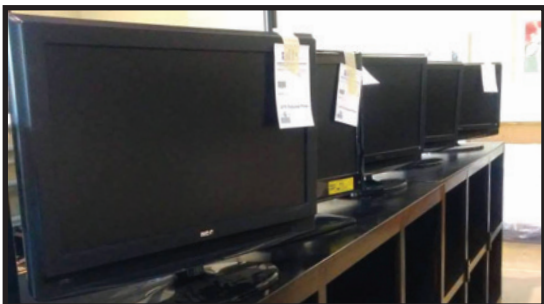


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inSports Pennsauken Student-Athletes Sign Letters Of Intent

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Teachers, family, and friends were on hand as three Pennsauken High School student athletes recently signed their letters of intent to continue their education and play college sports at the NCAA level. Selena Carter will be attending Notre Dame College, Ohio, studying pre-med and playing lacrosse; Jake Ureña is headed to Neumann University to study athletic training and play baseball; and Johnny Almonte, another Indians baseball player, has committed to Chestnut Hill College to study accounting and business, while also taking

the field for the Griffins.

"We're proud of all of your accomplishments. We know you're going to do us proud as you continue your academic and athletic careers at the college level," says Eric Mossop, athletic director for Pennsauken High School. "Congratulations to the parents of these fine young individuals for everything you've done for them to get them to this level; to the coaches who have helped them hone their skills to make sure they have this opportunity; and to all the teachers and community members of Pennsauken supporting these students along the way."

"New Jersey Girl" Headed To Ohio

A center for Pennsauken High School's lacrosse team, Selena Carter looks forward to bringing her "Jersey" style of aggressiveness to collegiate play.

"On the field, I'm a New Jersey girl. I'll bring my aggressiveness and speed up there. I feel it's a good opportunity to help the team out."

"It's going to be amazing to watch her play in college," adds Evelyn Carter, Selena's mom. "I'm really happy for her."

Academically, Selena chose her major both as a way to honor her aunt, who passed away from pancreatic cancer, and

to also help others. "I love to help people and I feel like I can add to their program."

"We're very happy for her to move on and explore the college life. She makes us feel proud," says Chris, Selena's dad. "She knows that her education is most important. Playing sports is a secondhand thing. We want her to show her athletic skills and stay focused on school."

Shana Smeriglio, who has coached Selena in both field hockey and lacrosse at Pennsauken High School, is extremely excited to see what Carter brings to college, both on and off the field.

"Selena is the type of student-athlete that you're excited to coach," says Coach Smeriglio. "From day one freshman year, she's been all in. Whether it's been academics or athletics, she's put it all into everything's she's done."

"I have no doubt that she'll bring everything she's brought here plus some both academically and athletically. I'm excited to see some highlights."

Baseball In Jake's Blood

From a very, very young age, Jake Ureña has had a ball in his hand. That affinity to play ball and a strong work ethic both on and off the field has resulted in a scholarship to Neumann University.

"Since the age of one, he wouldn't drop his ball. Baseball was in his blood I guess. I had no choice but to go with it," says Jacqueline Ovalles, Jake's mom, who is truly appreciative of the opportunities that baseball has provided her son. "I've always stressed with him that first he needs a career. Anything with base-

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Pennsauken High School seniors Selena Carter, Jake Ureña, and Johnny Almonte signed their letters of intent to continue their education and play sports at the NCAA level.

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Pennsauken Student-Athletes Sign Letters Of Intent

continued from page 33

ball that comes after, that's great."

Jake's love of sports led him to his
choice of study: athletic training. "I want
to help other athletes as they go on with
their careers," says Ureña. He went on to
explain that his drive to compete, both
on and off the field, will be a great asset
at the collegiate level.

"I was shocked that I received this op-
portunity from Neumann University,"
adds Jake. "They'll see that I'm a really
hard-working student."

And according to Jake's high school
coach, Cetchwayo Byrd, that hard work
pays off.

"He's a very good student-athlete; and
the student comes first," says Coach
Byrd. "Jake's going to help out Neu-
mann's graduation rate, because he's
definitely going to graduate. And on the
baseball field, they've got a gem right
here. I'll be excited to see what he does
when he plays."

Taking Baseball And Academics To The Next Level

Johnny Almonte, Jr., a senior with a
3.0 GPA, is extremely excited to be
headed to Chestnut Hill College, both
for the opportunity to play Division II
baseball and to earn his degree.

"I visited the school and I really liked
it," explains Almonte, who received both

academic and athletic scholarship
money for attending Chestnut Hill Col-
lege. "It's like a private school with
smaller class sizes. I think I'll learn better
because of that.

"I love the coach there too. That's an-
other reason why I decided to go there.
I'm hyped. It's a whole new level now."

"It's an excellent school," says Arlene
Almonte, Johnny's mom. "Johnny's
going to give 110 percent to achieve his
goals. Anything you give him, he wants
to do at his best."

"I'm excited for Johnny," adds Johnny,
Almonte, Sr. "That's what he always
wanted, to go somewhere and play base-
ball. We're very happy."

Johnny took a moment to thank his
family for their support, particularly his
father, Johnny, Sr., the person he credits
as his "number one fan."

"When I'd doubt myself, he'd tell me
how good I was and pushed me to be a
better baseball player."

And it's that hard work that got
Johnny noticed by colleges, according to
Coach Byrd.

"This is the result of hard work," ex-
plains Byrd. "I was a student-athlete
once. I know the kind of work it takes in
the classroom and in your particular
sport to get interest from schools like this.
If this isn't motivation for other students,
then I don't know what is."



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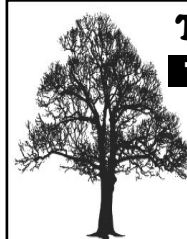
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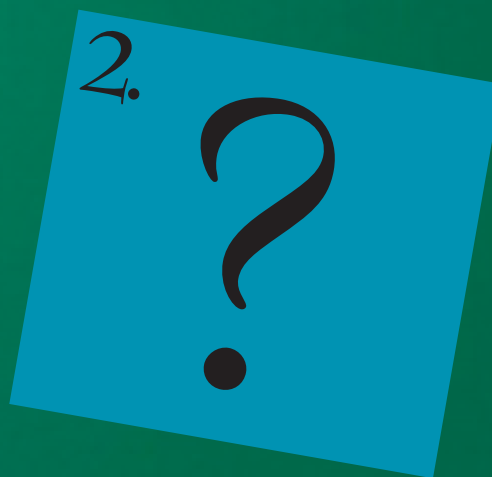
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